

REMARKS

This Amendment is filed in response to the Office Action dated January 3, 2007, which has a shortened statutory period set to expire April 3, 2007.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants greatly appreciate the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter. Specifically, Claims 1, 8-21, 24, 41, 43, 44, and 47 are allowed. Moreover, Claim 51 is objected because of informality (addressed below). Moreover, Claims 27, 33-37, and 52 would be allowable over the prior art of record if rewritten to overcome the 101 rejections (addressed below).

Applicants Correct Informality In Claim 51

Applicants greatly appreciate the Examiner's close attention to the claims and his suggested amendment to Claim 51 to correct a typographical error. Applicants have amended Claim 51 to correct this informality. Therefore, Applicants request reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection to Claim 51.

Claims 27, 33-37, and 52 Are Directed To Statutory Subject Matter

Claim 27, as amended, recites, "generating an analysis output regarding the thin film". Applicants respectfully submit that this limitation clarifies Applicants' method for analyzing a test sample and clearly recites a useful, concrete, and tangible result. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of Claim 27.

Claims 33 and 35-37 depend from Claim 27 and therefore are patentable for at least the reasons presented for Claim 27.

Based on those reasons, Applicants request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of Claims 33 and 35-37.

Claim 52, as amended, recites, "generating an analysis output regarding the thin film". Applicants respectfully submit that this limitation clarifies Applicants' method for analyzing a test sample and clearly recites a useful, concrete, and tangible result. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of Claim 52.

CONCLUSION

Claims 1, 8-21, 24, 27, 33-37, 41, 43, 44, 47, 51, and 52 are pending in the present application. Allowance of these claims is respectfully requested.

If there are any questions, please telephone the undersigned at (408) 451-5907 to expedite prosecution of this case.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jeanette S. Harms', written in a cursive style.

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